

What is claimed is:

1.           A catheter device having an anchoring end, comprising:  
          a shaft having a proximal portion and a distal portion;  
          a hub attached to the proximal portion of the shaft, the hub having a first member, a second member slidably coupled to the first member, and a latch; and  
          a cord running from the distal portion of the shaft through the shaft and having a free end exiting from the hub;  
          the hub having an unlatched state that allows pulling of the cord such that the distal portion of the shaft forms an anchoring shape, and a latched state in which the latch latches the first and second members together when the second member slidably moves relative to the first member so as to secure the cord to the hub.
2.           The catheter device according to claim 1, further comprising a manually operable release member coupled to the latch and being manually operable to release the latch from the latched state, wherein:  
          a sliding movement of the second member relative to the first member causes the latch to switch from the unlatched state to the latched state;  
          manual operation of the release member together with a reverse sliding movement causing the latch to switch from the latched state to the unlatched state, wherein unlatching of the latch is disabled without first operating the release member.
3.           The catheter device according to claim 1, wherein the latch produces a tactile feedback when the first and second members are latched.
4.           The catheter device according to claim 1, wherein:  
          one of the first and second members has a tongue; and  
          the other of the first and second members has a recess that receives the tongue such that when the first and second members are latched, the cord is frictionally secured between the tongue and the recess.
5.           The catheter device according to claim 1, wherein the latch comprises:  
          a recess disposed on the first member;  
          a projection disposed on the second member and adapted to be received in the recess to latch the first and second members together.

6. The catheter device according to claim 5, wherein the hub further comprises a second recess disposed on the first member and adapted to receive the projection disposed on the second member to prevent the second member from sliding off the first member.
7. The catheter device according to claim 5, wherein the latch further comprises a release member coupled to the projection and operable to release the projection from the recess.
8. The catheter device according to claim 7, further comprising a strain relief slidably coupled to the shaft and adapted to cover the release member to limit the ability of a person to release the latch.
9. The catheter device according to claim 5, further comprising a strain relief slidably coupled to the shaft and adapted to cover the projection so as to bias the projection into the recess.
10. The catheter device according to claim 1, further comprising a strain relief slidably coupled to the shaft and adapted to at least partially cover the hub and at least partially cover the proximal portion of the shaft to minimize kinking of the shaft.
11. The catheter device according to claim 1, further comprising:  
an anti-rotation longitudinal slot disposed on one of the first and second members;  
an anti-rotation slide protrusion disposed on the other of the first and second members, and sized to be received in and to move along the anti-rotation longitudinal slot to limit a rotational movement of the second member relative to the first member.
12. The catheter device according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a recess disposed on one of the first and second members;  
a projection disposed on the other of the first and second members and adapted to be received in the recess to prevent the second member from sliding off the first member.

13. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the hub further comprises:  
a port in communication with a lumen of the hub, the cord passing through the port; and  
a deformable sealing material disposed in the port.
14. The catheter according to claim 13, wherein the deformable sealing material includes a deformable semi-liquid material.
15. The catheter according to claim 13, wherein the port has an upper enclosure above the deformable sealing material and an opening in the upper enclosure to define an exit for the cord, the upper enclosure having a higher durometer than that of the deformable sealing material.
16. A catheter device having an anchoring end, comprising:  
a shaft having a proximal portion and a distal portion;  
a hub attached to the proximal portion of the shaft, the hub having a latch;  
a cord running from the distal portion of the shaft through the shaft and having a free end exiting from the hub;  
a slide member slidably coupled to the hub, the slide member having an unlatched state that allows pulling of the cord such that the distal portion of the shaft forms an anchoring shape, and a latched state in which the hub and the slide member are latched together by the latch so as to secure the cord to the hub, the latch latching the hub and the slide member when the slide member slidably moves toward the hub.
17. The catheter device according to claim 16, further comprising a manually operable release member coupled to the latch and being manually operable to release the latch from the latched state, wherein:  
a sliding movement of the slide member relative to the hub causes the latch to switch from the unlatched state to the latched state;  
manual operation of the release member together with a reverse sliding movement causing the latch to switch from the latched state to the unlatched state, wherein unlatching of the latch is disabled without first operating the release member.
18. The catheter device according to claim 16, wherein:  
one of the hub and the slide member has a tongue; and

the other of the hub and the slide member has a recess that receives the tongue such that when the first and second members are latched, the cord is frictionally secured between the tongue and the recess.

19. The catheter device according to claim 16, wherein the latch comprises:  
a recess disposed on the hub;  
a projection disposed on the slide member and adapted to be received in the recess to latch the hub and the slide member together.

20. The catheter device according to claim 18, wherein the hub further comprises a second recess and adapted to receive the projection disposed on the slide member to prevent the slide member from sliding off the hub.

21. The catheter device according to claim 16, further comprising:  
an anti-rotation longitudinal slot disposed on one of the hub and the slide member;  
an anti-rotation slide protrusion disposed on the other of the hub and the slide member, and sized to be received in and to move along the anti-rotation longitudinal slot to limit a rotational movement of the slide member relative to the hub.

22. The catheter device according to claim 16, further comprising:  
a recess disposed on one of the hub and the slide member;  
a projection disposed on the other of the hub and the slide member and adapted to be received in the recess to prevent the slide member from sliding off the hub.

23. The catheter according to claim 16, wherein the hub further comprises:  
a port in communication with a lumen of the hub, the cord passing through the port; and  
a deformable sealing material disposed in the port.

24. The catheter according to claim 23, wherein the deformable sealing material includes a deformable semi-liquid material and the cord passes through the deformable sealing material.

25. A catheter device having an anchoring end, comprising:  
a shaft having a proximal portion and a distal portion;

a hub attached to the proximal portion of the shaft, the hub having a first member, a second member movably coupled to the first member, and a latch; and

a cord running from the distal portion of the shaft through the shaft and then to the hub;

the latch having an unlatched state in which the cord can be readily pulled such that the distal portion of the shaft forms an anchoring shape;

the latch having a latched state in which the cord is secured to the hub to maintain the anchoring shape of the distal portion;

a manually operable release member coupled to the latch and being manually operable to release the latch from the latched state;

a first predetermined movement of the second member relative to the first member causing the latch to switch from the unlatched state to the latched state;

manual operation of the release member together with a reverse predetermined movement causing the latch to switch from the latched state to the unlatched state.

26. The catheter device according to claim 25, wherein:

one of the first and second members has a tongue; and

the other of the first and second members has a recess that receives the tongue such that when the first and second members are latched, the cord is frictionally secured between the tongue and the recess.

27. The catheter device according to claim 25, wherein the latch comprises:

a recess disposed on the first member;

a projection disposed on the second member and adapted to be received in the recess to latch the first and second members together.

28. The catheter device according to claim 25, further comprising:

an anti-rotation longitudinal slot disposed on one of the first and second members;

an anti-rotation slide protrusion disposed on the other of the first and second members, and sized to be received in and to move along the anti-rotation longitudinal slot to limit a rotational movement of the second member relative to the first member.

29. A method of anchoring and releasing a distal end of a catheter in a body cavity of a patient by a cord extending through the catheter and exiting from a hub, the method comprising:

latching first and second hub pieces by a predetermined engagement movement between the first and second hub pieces to hold the cord against movement;

unlatching the first hub piece from the second hub piece by a reverse movement of the first and second hub pieces; and

manually operating a release member coupled to the hub to enable the step of unlatching, the step of unlatching being disabled without first operating the release member.

30. The method according to claim 29, wherein:

the step of latching is a sliding motion of the first hub piece relative to the second hub piece in a first axial direction of the hub; and

the step of unlatching is a sliding motion of the first hub piece relative to the second hub piece in an opposite axial direction from the first axial direction.

31. The method according to claim 30, further comprising:

providing a strain relief that at least partially covers the release member to limit the ability of a person to release the latch; and

removing the strain relief to expose the release member prior to the step of manually operating a release member.